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Controller Westly: Oppose Federal Energy Bill

SACRAMENTO – State Controller Steve Westly today strongly urged California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer to oppose the federal energy bill headed to the Senate floor.

“This bill is full of corporate giveaways for oil companies enjoying record profits,” Controller Westly said. “These subsidies and tax breaks – worth billions of dollars – do nothing to address the energy crisis and they will not lead us toward energy independence.”

Controller Westly’s main concerns regarding the energy bill are:

- Allows seismic inventories along the nation’s coasts
- Limits the role of state and local authorities over LNG facility siting and safety
- Provides insufficient incentives to conserve energy
- Does not adequately fund the increased use of renewable energy sources

“As California and other states this week experienced heat waves that placed enormous pressure on our energy grid, the conference committee turned its back on an opportunity to push America toward energy efficiency.

“A majority of Californians demand smarter energy policies that reduce our dependence on foreign oil, clean air and protect the environment. The energy bill negotiated by the conference committee will accomplish none of these priorities,” Controller Westly said.

Controller Westly is the state’s chief financial officer and a member of the State Lands Commission.

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STEVE WESTLY
California State Controller

July 28, 2005

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
112 Hart Senate Building
Constitution Avenue and 2nd Street NE
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

I am gravely concerned about the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the threats that it poses to California's progress on energy conservation and environmental protection. I strongly urge you to oppose the bill when it comes before you.

As the State's chief financial officer and member of the State Lands Commission, I have aggressively opposed provisions in the energy bill that would thwart our progress in reducing pollution and protecting our natural resources. This bill will threaten the 24-year moratorium that prohibits offshore oil drilling, endangering our waters, marine life and coastal economies. The bill would allow seismic inventories along the Outer Continental Shelf. These inventories set the stage for oil and gas exploration off our coastline.

The energy bill weakens California's ability to protect its citizens and resources by allowing federal regulators to have control of siting and safety of LNG terminals. I oppose any limits on the role of state and local communities in determining the location of LNG facilities.

The bill provides only superficial incentives to conserve energy or increase use of renewable energy sources. As California and other states this week experienced heat waves that placed enormous pressure on our energy grids, the conference committee turned its back on an opportunity to push America toward greater energy efficiency.

The Senate is being asked to vote on an energy bill full of corporate giveaways for oil companies enjoying record profits. These subsidies and tax breaks – worth billions of dollars – will shift the burden of our looming energy crisis to the taxpayers.

The Honorable Barbara Boxer

July 28, 2005

A majority of Californians demand smarter energy policies that reduce our dependence on foreign oil, clean our air and protect our environment. The energy bill will accomplish none of these priorities.

I urge you to oppose the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Sincerely,

STEVE WESTLY
California State Controller

SW/ts:me



STEVE WESTLY
California State Controller

July 28, 2005

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
331 Hart Senate Building
Constitution Avenue and 2nd Street NE
Washington, DC 20510

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The Honorable Dianne Feinstein

July 28, 2005

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I urge you to oppose the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Sincerely,

STEVE WESTLY
California State Controller

SW/ts:me